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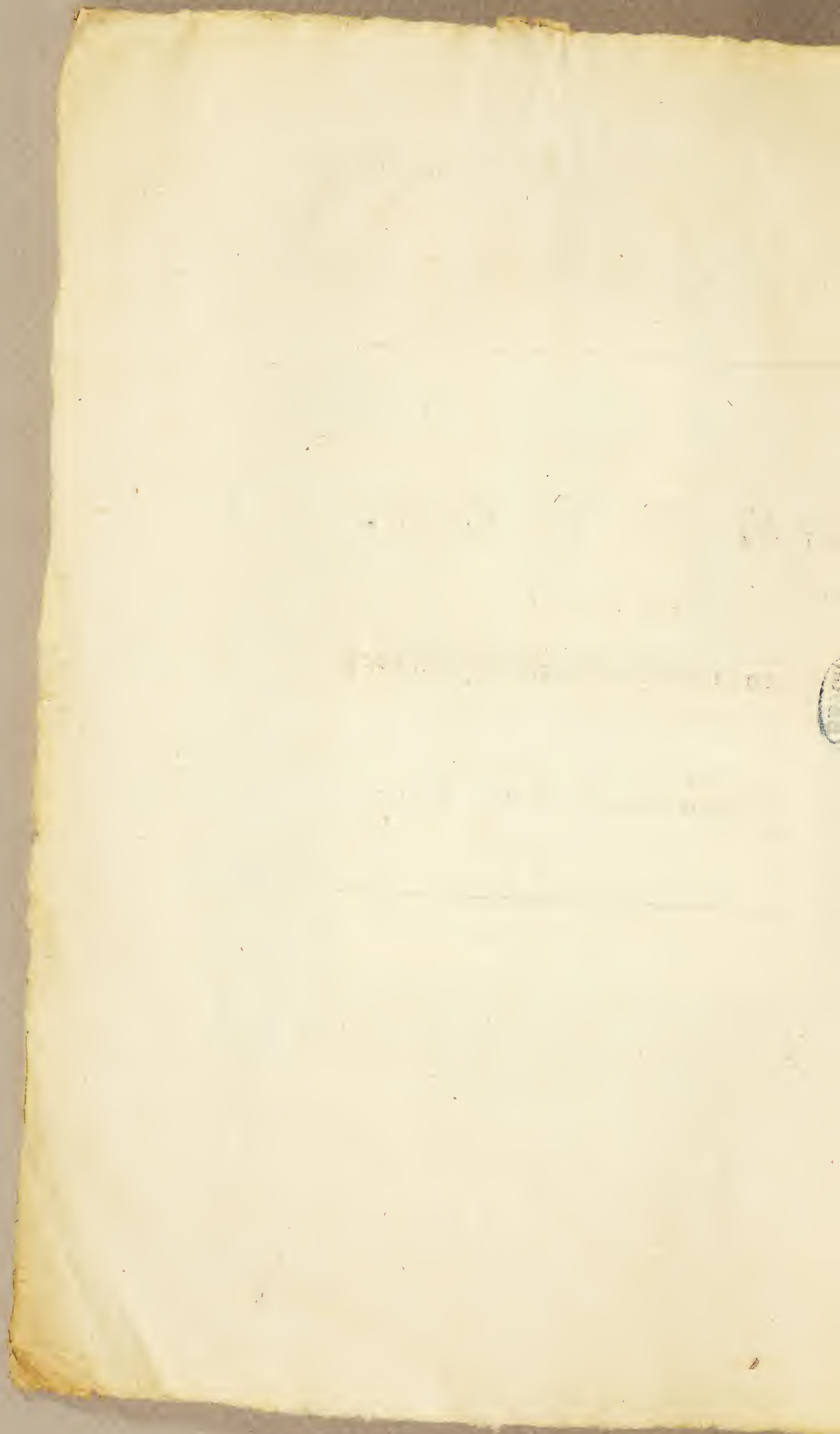
A
L E T T E R,

FROM A

Citizen of *Port-Royal* in *Jamaica*,

TO A

Citizen of *New-York*, &c.



A
L E T T E R

FROM A

Citizen of *Port-Royal* in *Jamaica*,

T O A

Citizen of *New-York*;

Relating to some Extraordinary Measures,
Lately set on Foot in that ISLAND:

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. JOHNSON, in *Ludgate-Street*.
M,DCC,LVI.

1870

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LETTER, &c.

S I R,

THE Gentlemen of your Colony being reputed superior to us, in political knowledge; and our Constitution, upon the same model; we pray your information touching certain obtruse Points, hitherto unknown among us: not doubting your candid answer, to a man who is neither dependant upon any Administration, nor linked with any Party; but a real and steady friend to the Constitution; not otherwise concerned in the subject of this Letter, but merely as a Member of the Community; having no kind of personal interest in this matter, but as his private Fortune is connected with the welfare of the Island.

You cannot be a stranger to the many unjustifiable Measures, pursued by a late ill-advised Governor of this Island; Measures, chiefly imputed to his secretary and a Favourite Ecclesiastic.—— To facilitate his Measures, Scriblers were set at work, to corrupt the morals of the People, and possess them with the destructive error (the stale device of bad ministers) that no such thing as virtue exists in the world.

Before his arrival, Letters were sent, importing threats to turn such of the members of our Assembly

sembly as were Place-men, out of their employments, if they did not implicitly comply with his Measures: Very wrong ones, you may believe; otherwise, this extraordinary Step would have been unnecessary: But, to the honour of our Members, the more they were threatened, the more determined were they, to unite and oppose.

The Governor and his Advisers, soon after his arrival, finding that menaces could not prevail with the Descendants of Britain, then betook themselves to corruption; much more bare-faced, than any ever practised before, in this Island.

They tempted us with Money, Places and Pensions; but with little success. I can assure you, there are few here, who have not publick spirit; true Sterling sentiments of British Liberty.

When all sorts of indirect means were, in vain, tried, to obtain his ends; he then suddenly prorogued our Assembly; in a manner, scarce ever before heard of, in this Island; purely to prevent our representing his Measures, to our excellent Monarch.

I shan't detain you with a detail of the extraordinary Proceedings of that Administration, after the Prorogation; and the more extraordinary circumstances of the Governor's departure: But shall hasten to the principal design of this Letter; and beg your answer to the following questions.

When the Speaker of your Assembly inclines
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to quit the Chair, does he fairly and openly resign it to those who appointed him; or does he, by sinister and clandestine means, endeavour to establish a successor; before those who created him Speaker, know any thing of his intended resignation; a successor, who must (whatever be his private endowments) unavoidably, from variety of immovable causes, create general discontent, by taking that Chair?

If your Speaker should, by under-hand artifices and machinations, at the close of a Session, endeavour to compass the intrusion of a successor, when many Members were absent, and the remaining few, astonished at the suddenness, as well as nature, of the deep-concerted blow; what steps would you take, during the Prorogation; and what, at the next meeting of your assembly? Would you not for ever renounce every Man, acting any part in such detestable combination? would you not instantly revive those public-spirited Meetings, which, in every free Country, are the surest means of preserving the Constitution, against the schemes of ambitious men; Meetings, which saved us in a late dangerous Administration; and have since been industriously and most artfully discouraged? Would you not, in those Meetings, comment upon the uncommon and critical situation of your public affairs; boldly representing Men and Measures in their true light; inspiring the People with just indignation, against those whose Feelings for their Country are utterly extinguished by dire ambition and sordid avarice; animating your Fellow-subjects, with the strongest and warmest sentiments of esteem, for men of public

public virtue, the only real Guardians of the Rights and Privileges of the People; and, above all things, upon all occasions, demonstrating, that no evil treatment from Ministers, how often soever repeated, can, in any degree, impair your rivetted attachment to that illustrious House, assigned by Providence as a Barrier, against Popery and arbitrary Power?

If any Speaker in your Country should ever be hardy enough, to attempt thus surreptitiously to obtrude a successor; could you, by any rules of law or reason, reward his perfidy at the public cost; and finding it necessary to bribe him with a sum too large for one payment, therefore split it into a number of annual gales, amounting in the whole to upwards of sixty thousand pounds of our currency? a modest pluck, out of the public purse; not to reward public merit, but to sanctify public demerit.

Should your Speaker enjoy lucrative employments all his life; until he were, by years, rendered incapable to bear the toils of his office; then resign, in the most proper manner; would you not think him fully recompensed, by a splendid provision for life? If, in the most improper manner, he secretly covenanted to resign, for pecuniary reward; giving up his friends, and the Cause which he avowed as the Cause of his Country, to their known Opponents; what would you then think he merited?

If such a man should be rewarded for such conduct, out of the public money; would not every subject who paid his proportion to the public taxes, have an evident right, openly and loudly to complain? Should this gentleman
happen

happen to be a man, who had set himself at the head of a popular Interest, to support constitutional Measures; and, having thus insinuated himself into full confidence of the People; then, all at once, in Abuse of that Confidence, betray those who confided in him; would you not, for your own preservation, oppose him; and, for Example, expose him: however grievous might be the necessity, of exhibiting to the Publick, in true colours, a man, once venerable among you?—Unhappy man! to be treated with all tenderness, the public Interest can bear.

One Family here, and their Alliance, in a great measure, sway the Revenue and Treasury: They lately, in a manner, had the very Government of the Island in them. (their weight there, was no secret) And it is generally apprehended, that it will be so again.——Sheriffs, who have greatly in their power, our lives, liberties and properties, will then be chiefly nominated by them. All men know what this Island lately felt, by partial and arbitrary sheriffs. The known and remarkable Associate of this Family, is the principal Clergyman here; and is supposed, with their aid, very largely to influence two other momentous Bodies. Who can forget what this Island has already felt, by this dangerous man; at present, in a political situation, alike uncommon and suspicious: seemingly discarded, the road, open for his return: No kind of satisfactory publick assurance given, that he shall hereafter be excluded.

Consider the means of influence, annexed to the monstrous Benefice of this American Pope; it's large Patronage, extensive power of F—s,
and

and immense Estate in sugar Plantations: which being farmed out in parcels, upon determinable leases of great value, to many of the principal gentlemen of the Island; strengthens his influence, to such a degree, that scarce any man of the Island can cope with him: Then weigh the consequences; should a Family already possessed of such formidable means of influence, and most intimately connected with a man of his dangerous turn of mind and overgrown Weight, procure the Lead in our Assembly.

Reflect upon the state of our affairs, relative to the public-money. An immense redundancy in the Treasury, amounting to more than half the current cash of this Island: Large future redundancies, likely to accrew; the ordinary Duties being continued, although the public coffers be full: Groundless Claims, of most dangerous Tendency, concerning our public money, lately set up: Those Claims, still unrelinquished; nay, persisted in; acquiesced under: The Ends, partly effected: Unmerited Pensions, greatly, exorbitantly increasing: The Assembly, silent.

If Vigilance was necessary under the late Government; is it not much more necessary now; when the Instruments of carrying these dangerous Claims into execution, are so manifestly and so greatly enlarging their power; and a main supporter of the Rights of the People, taken off.

The present state of our political affairs does, in many respects, most nearly concern us: 'Tis a subject, of the highest moment to consider. Who, but a man that wishes to share in the spoils, will openly deny this, or secretly oppose it?

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The Rule in Politics, for some time past, seems to have been, that of postponing and amusing : the Administration, smooth, deep and silent ; as if old purposes were to be carried on, by new Measures ; and the Machiavilian Ecclesiastic, conning his Part. We trace him in quality of a secret adviser ; still a Prompter behind the scene ; ready to come upon the stage, as soon as the Audience is prepared : and we see no means admitted, to prepare them.

Such is the inseparable Ally, of the intended Speaker of our Assembly ; such, the Speaker, singled out for co-operation with this remarkable Ally ;—such, our impending danger.

Do these gentlemen flatter themselves, that common sense is excluded from all of human Race, but themselves ? Does a man live among us, without discernment sufficient to see the tendency of this unprecedented ingrossment of Power ? which, however exorbitant, must still be enlarged. Not content with ruling, almost wholly and absolutely, in our Council ; they must aspire to preside in the remaining Branch of the Legislature ; to take the Chair of our Assembly, and assume the Lead there ; and, despairing of success by a fair Election, then lay a Scheme to entrap the Members, and take the Chair by stratagem. Should such intrigues prove successful ; what is there, that may not be apprehended from such enormous Powers, centering in one Family ? What public Confidence can any People place in men, who take such means to obtain their ends ?

Even

Even before our late Governor, with his secretary and spiritual Aid-du-camp, were pleased to attack us; we were openly told, that it would prove fruitless to oppose this rising Family; as the force of their powerful Alliance must, in the event, be sufficient to bear down all opposition. Laying aside this fortuitous Alliance (if, in the event, their Measures suffer it to prove fortuitous to them) where lyes the præeminent Title of the aspiring Family, to this general Dominion over their fellow-subjects? Is their aggrandisement to be the momentous aim, under the administration of a man, happy in his character and descent, in the esteem of his Prince and confidence of the People? is there not room to conclude that some uncommon degree of misinformation and deception must have intervened; to produce Actions, thus inconsistent with Characters? without disparagement, be it spoken. No dishonour in a subject, to be misled.—The common fate of Kings.

At whose door, must this deception be laid? the question, *Cui Bono*, points out the answer; and Characters confirm it. Our Chief came unblemished among us. Happy! thrice happy! had he come without Alliances. His secretary (not like our former secretary, who stole out of this Island by night, for fear of insults from an inflamed Populace, in resentment for publick injuries) has given such evidence of uprightness, throughout his general conduct, as must exempt him from every kind of dishonourable imputation. Who, therefore, can be supposed to have worked under ground, at the treacherous Mine; but those you see prepared, to take advantage by the springing of it?

Why,

Why, these Doings, in an Island, alike remarkable for Loyalty and Tranquility: ever ready to devote their persons and Estates, to the service of their Prince? One single County in the northern part of this Island, during the time of the late Rebellion in Scotland, offered to raise 10,000 men; the Gentlemen, to enlist, as private soldiers, for encouragement of their Tenants; and serve his Majesty, untill the Rebellion should be suppressed. Was not this, a cordial proof of the strongest attachment? Will you (for this is addressed to any British subject) will you do such a People the dishonour, to put the private interest of a few mercenary men, in the scale against them? Will you do such a People the injustice, to give them a moment of general disquietude, for the private gratification of any aspiring Individuals? Who is the man, that can answer for advising such Measures, at any time; particularly, at this? What sense, what Detestation, that distinguished County have, of some of our present political Measures, may be very easily known: They are, in no sort, shy, in declaring their opinions.

Men, free born and liberally educated, are above disguise: Hypocrisy, they give up to Parasites. No degree of Court-Artifice can possibly cover their sentiments, from men in power, who desire to know, and take proper means of information, and the sense of that county will, in the event, undoubtedly be found, the general sense of this Island. Men, who chuse to know it's real sense, have no excuse for their ignorance.

The proper Reflections upon this important subject, we submit to a noble Personage, bred up in Principles of Whiggism and Liberty; essential
Ingredients

Ingredients in any man, fit to preside over the loyal Island; an Island, never parsimonious of Blood or Treasure; never (since the glorious Revolution) once known to repine, at any Tax for support of Government.

Without murmur, we chearfully assent to the granting of our public Money, in liberal Pensions for real public service. Should some designing Minister pervert the proper use of Pensions; and apply them to corrupt the Guardians of the People; ye friends of the Constitution, without party distinctions (distinctions, generally raised by crafty Statesmen, to play you at one another) will call upon you to answer, what would you think Ye Slumberers, if such there be, would not this awaken you? If not, take your eternal Rest.

Would the divine Lord Russel, whose memory is revered by men of knowledge and public spirit all over Europe; would he, for any earthly Consideration, have been a Party to any transaction, inconsistent with the Honour, the Interest or the Liberties of England? He died, not to enslave, but to free his Country. In your last Letter you desired me to Inform you, whether the direction of the popular interest among us, be confined to one, two or three great men; intimating a report among you, that these supposed Directors, have the very Tongues of our People, and the Voices of the Assembly in their pockets. I am amazed you could ask such a question; you who know, that British Blood runs in our Veins, and the Spirit of Englishmen, in our Hearts. If it were possible for the combined devices of men, to impress pusillanimity, ignorance and depravity

ty upon the Generality ; you would find the vigour of the rest, redoubled.

The truth is, the Constable of the Watch, being bribed to divert the men from attending their duty, took all upon himself; they trusted him; and we, trusting them, composed ourselves in deep security: We overslept; but are now sufficiently awakened, to watch the Watch-Men. Assure your friends and ours, that this free Island is not in the hands of any one, two or three great men whatsoever. If any such presume to answer for managing it; they will deceive, by promising more than they can perform. We are not to be put back and forward, like the hand of a clock. Right Measures will ever keep us quiet; and wrong ones, ever discompose us. It is with us, as with all men of constitutional Freedom: Every Ruler can vary our tempers, and change to Storm or Calm, as he pleases. There may possibly be men, vain enough to deceive themselves, magnifying, in their own eyes, their own strength; or disingenuous enough, to misrepresent their strength; or fanciful enough, to imagine that they can ingeniously strike out a new, successful system of Policy; and rely upon supporting it, by Measures, subversive of the Rights of the People. Such chymical projects can never prevail, against the natural Weight and Interest of a free People, properly informed.

We wish the publick Measures, to be always constitutional and just. It is our business to exert our constitutional strength, for the frustrating of every Measure, which doth not answer this description; if we were restrained herein, it would be equal, whether we lived in Jamaica or St. Domingo, in Britain or Turkey.

Your

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Your Liberties are dear to us, as our own; we know them, to be inseperable. Destroy Liberty in any branch of the British Territories; and it is impaired, in all. Leaders of the People may, in continued succession, possibly betray us and you; the People themselves, never will. Rely upon this; in every Age and every emergency, every repeated instance of evil treatment from Leaders, every snare laid to take us, every new danger incurred, however soothing the Administration, must necessarily rivet this Island still closer to you, for the common preservation.

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